COL STEPHEN K SCOTT
US ARMY

COLONEL STEPHEN K. SCOTT US ARMY
WE HONOR A FALLEN HERO

High School Sweethearts

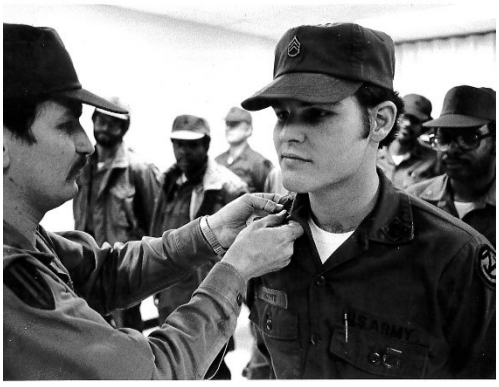
Steve Scott was born 25-JAN 1954. He lived in the suburbs of St. Louis MO in North County. He attended Glasgow Elementary School, East Junior High, and later Riverview Gardens High School. In his junior year he would meet his future wife and forever friend, Joan Souders. Joan grew up on Lookaway Drive while Steve grew up in nearby Glasgow Village.

Their first date was at Ponticello's Restaurant on Chambers Road. Everybody growing up in the area knew and loved this restaurant. Joan and Steve were high school sweethearts, and though apart at times, were always together.

Steve was a determined young man with high aspirations and goals at a young age. Joan remembers how Steve was always falling asleep in first period English. Steve had a paper route back then and delivered papers from about 3:00 to 5:00 am. He saved his money from his paper route to buy a Plymouth Road Runner. Steve loved fast cars and motorcycles. Steve and Joan graduated from Riverview Gardens High School in 1971.

Army Training

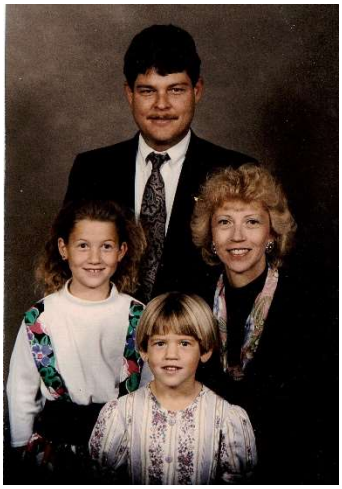
Steve would continue his education for two years at Florissant Valley Community College. He was encouraged by his Uncle Bob to consider becoming an Air Traffic Controller. Uncle Bob was an air traffic controller at the Kansas City Airport. He entered the Army Reserve in November 1973 at age 18 and was off to basic training at Fort Polk LA and then on to Fort Rucker in Alabama for Army Aviation and Troop Command. He wanted to follow in the footsteps of his father, Kenneth Scott, who also served in the Army. Steve and Joan set a wedding date for 6-JUL 1974, hoping and praying that he passed every test and didn't have to repeat. Joan remembers, "that would have been a problem!"



Steve passed his test, and they were married on 6-JUL 1974 as planned, then headed off to Fort Campbell Kentucky. Fort Campbell is home to the 101st Airborne Division and the 160th Special Operations Aviation

Regiment. "We didn't live on base while stationed at Fort Campbell" Joan said. They lived in an apartment in nearby Clarksville TN. When Steve's time was up, we moved back to St Louis. Steve stayed in the Army Reserves and went to work at Army Aviation Systems Command (AVSCOM). Daughter Rachel came along in 1982 and Rebekah in 1986. Steve continued to move up in rank and was called up for the Gulf War but was not actively deployed. He was later sent to South Korea prior to the 1988 Olympics.

Family Life in St. Charles County



The Scott family had settled in St. Charles County by now. Rachel, his daughter remembers, "We grew up in St. Charles off Highway 94 and 40. We did a lot of fishing at Busch Wildlife and various lakes. My dad enjoyed fishing and he always wanted a boy, but ended up with two girls instead. He had a motorcycle and as we got older would take us for rides in the St. Charles area. I have many memories of motorcycle rides with my dad and even burnt my leg getting off once. I bumped my leg on the hot pipe and it left me with a burn scar. After Dad retired, he wanted to ride his motorcycle with the Patriot Guard."

Life and career choice and changes came along in the mid-nineties. Steve and Joan divorced after 20 years of marriage. Joan, reflecting back says, "Life can make you bitter or better and with two daughters we choose better and never lost our friendship." Then AVSCOM was moved to Huntsville and Steve relocated to Alabama. Though divorced, they remained close. Steve would call Joan when he needed cheering up. Joan called Steve a *"Disneyland Dad."* She said, "I'm the one taking care of your children and grandchildren." Steve responded with, "Hey, I'm fighting a war." Like many fathers and grandfathers, he was there for the entertaining while Joan met their day-to-day, less glamourous needs. Steve would ask Joan to take care of things at his house in Huntsville Alabama. He would say, "go by the house and do these chores for me." St. Louis was closer to Alabama than Iraq, Steve reasoned. Joan even kept his dog for him.

Global War on Terror Begins

Then on 11-SEP 2001, the Global War on Terror began, and Steve's military career took a different direction. After a short while he returned to Huntsville.

Rachel continued, "My oldest son is named after his grandpa. His name is Zachary Stephen. My dad was so honored that his first grandchild was named after him. He was deployed to Kuwait in 2003 and I was having complications with my pregnancy and had to deliver my son six weeks early. My dad was able to get emergency leave through the Red Cross and come home to be with me and see his grandson. Since my son was premature, he was taken to St. John's (now Mercy Hospital) for about a month stay. My dad would pick me up and drive me to the hospital so that I could be with my son. It was a really hard time for me and having my dad's support meant a lot."

Kuwait Preparations

In 2003 Steve was deployed to Kuwait on active duty from FEB 2003- OCT 2003. He served as the Battalion Commander for the 356 Quartermaster Battalion. He was a LT Colonel at the time of deployment and subsequently was promoted to Colonel. Steve received the Bronze Star in 2003 for his service as a battalion commander during this deployment.

Col. Scott was always eager to learn and continued his school throughout his career. In June 2004, he graduated from Chelsea University with a PhD in Business and Engineering Technology.

Stationed at the Pentagon, Living the Dream!

Steve was asked to work at the Pentagon, which for him was the ultimate career move. After working in the Pentagon for two years he volunteered for a short 6-month deployment to help train the Iraqi Army. He wrote***, "I spent the last two and a half years up in Washington doing what I thought was important for the U.S. forces, but having come over here and spending a lot of time with my partners in the Iraqi army, I'm 100 percent behind what we're doing. They're on track. They're on schedule. Their hearts are in the right places."***

Final Deployment to Iraq

Steve was stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and assigned to the 356th Quartermaster Battalion overseeing the transition of security forces to the Iraqi government. He had been working at the Pentagon in the years prior to 2008.

Steve called Joan on 5-APR 2008, once again, for a little cheering up. Joan sensed something was wrong. Joan felt Steve hadn't looked well the last time she saw him. The next day, mortar rounds struck the Embassy in the "Green or Safe Zone" where Steve was exercising on a treadmill. He died of his wounds. Also killed in the attack was Maj. Stuart A. Wolfer who was alongside Steve. In just eight weeks his tour would have been completed. Steve had been talking about retiring soon after this deployment.

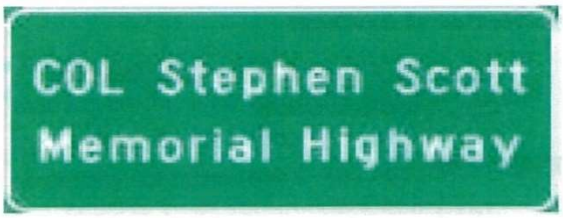
The Army called Steve's mother who immediately called Joan at 10:00 PM CST. They decided to wait to the next day to tell the kids. The next day they went to Rebecca's work to tell her. It happened to be Rebecca's birthday. Rebecca thought it was a birthday surprise when she first saw them approaching. She quickly learned differently. They came to her office to tell her father had been killed.

Remembering Steve

Joan said, "Steve reached out to the younger soldiers in his command. Steve would say, I remember how tough it was at first for the younger soldiers. He loved what he did and saw purpose in that.

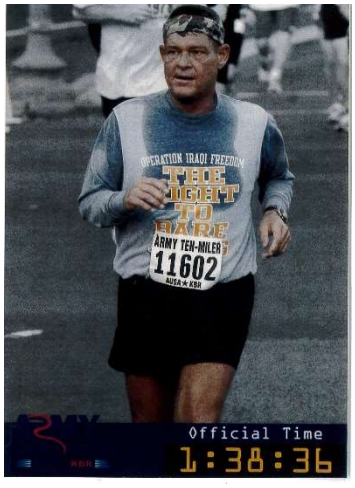
Steve would often visit Walter Reed Hospital and visit with wounded soldiers. Glen Dare served with him in Iraq and now works with "Carry the Load", an organization that is active in connecting the sacrifices of our military to the American people. Glen came to St Louis in Feb 2020 to meet with the family with a film crew to record their memories and contributions that Steve Scott has made.

Today, a section of Highway 94 in St. Charles County near Weldon Springs from Mid Rivers Drive to Highway 40 is named the Stephen Scott Memorial Highway. Funding was provided by Hero's Way, an organization from Cape Girardeau.



In 2010 the family was invited to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville where they dedicated the new gym, named the **COL Stephen K Scott Fitness Center**. Joan recalled, "he loved to run, like Forest Gump. He once ran the Boston Marathon."

Rachel said, "Dad ran so many races and marathons over his years and really loved to run and stay active. He ran four or more miles a day. In 2017, I ran the San Diego marathon in his honor. I trained for about 6 months and was able to successfully complete the marathon without any prior race experience. It was an honor and a memorable experience for me. I know he was with me the entire race."



In the USO at St Louis Airport they dedicated a section to him and have a picture of him on the wall. His name also appears on the wall at the St Charles Veteran Memorial Park off Kisker Road. And now his story is in the St. Charles County Veterans Museum.

Colonel Scott's military career spanned nearly 35 years. He was a graduate of the Basic Airborne Course, the Air Assault School, Quartermaster Officer Basic and Advanced Courses and the Command and General Staff College. His service included assignments with the United States Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations Command, the 81st Regional Readiness Command, Specials Operations Command, Pacific and at the Pentagon. Colonel Scott served tours in El Salvador, Kuwait, and Iraq.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch:

A 54-year-old Army soldier who grew up in St. Louis was killed by mortar fire 6-APR 2008 in Baghdad, the Defense Department said: Family members of Col. Stephen Scott said military officials notified them Sunday night that he had been killed earlier that day in the city's Green Zone. Scott was exercising when the building was struck by mortar fire and he was killed. Also killed was Maj. Stuart A. Wolfer. Scott is one of the highest-ranking

officers killed in the Iraq conflict, which had claimed the lives of more than 4,000 U.S. soldiers. According to an Associated Press database of U.S. military deaths in Iraq, at least eight other Army or Army Reserve colonels have died.

Steve wanted to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. But the family chose to keep him close instead, in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. Although he is 829 miles from Arlington, he is near where he grew up and near his family. He is buried among World War I soldiers except for one 20-year-old next to him. The family adopted that soldier and takes care of his resting place along with Steve's.

A memorial service was held for Steve at the First Baptist Church of Harvester in St. Charles County MO on 14-APR 2008. Perhaps one of the greatest compliments was paid by his ex-wife Joan Souders. "He was a soldier for the soldiers. He always wanted to make sure the soldiers had what they needed."

His friend Joan delivered the eulogy. Steve left behind his brother Mark, his sister Kathleen King; his daughter Rachel Regot and Rebekah Coldew. He now has six grandchildren. Rachel's are Zachary, Makaylah, Sydnee and Brady. Rebekah's are Dylan and Degan. He also left behind a dear, faithful friend in Joan.

COL STEPHEN KENNETH SCOTT
January 15, 1954 – April 6, 2008

SOURCE AND YEARS OF COMMISSIONED SERVICE
Enlisted Regular Army: 6 NOV 73 – 13 NOV 75
US Army Reserve Sergeant First Class and
Direct Commission over 29 years

MILITARY SCHOOLS ATTENDED

Quartermaster Basic Course	***1979***
Air Assault School	***1980***
US Army Logistics Management Course	***1981***
Research and Development Management Course	***1981***
Airborne School	***1981***
Quartermaster Advance Course	***1985***
Command and General Staff College	***1989***
Psychological Operations Officer's Course	***1990***
Contingency Contracting, CON 234 DAU	***1999***
DOD Professional Military Comptroller Course	***2000***
Reserve Component National Security Course	***2001***
U.S. Army Pathfinder	***2001***
Allied Canadian Airborne School	***2002***
Managing the Acquisition Workforce, ACQ 450 DAU	***2005***
Army War College, Defense Strategy Course	***2006***
Lean Six Sigma, Green Belt, DAU	***2007***